

Dear Sir

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

JUN 10 1936

61-7318-74
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 10 1936
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Two days ago I had your letter of June 8 last
concerning the Black Legion organization in Sierra Park and I
further that I'm given you information
vice may or may not have to pay for that
there is vice organization there in 1926
there murdered a Negro in the neighborhood
and that with some of our neighbors joined
and sent the Negro's out of the town
then later there was a Spanish family
vice they also drove out is to me
a Catholic and a Armenian born
I was wounded and arrested and be
cause I insisted on my rights I was
arrested for cause and sent to
move the Hot vice I send a copy
to you was given to Police Detective
Chief of the first Dept Police were
investigated and vice told me that
it was all right for now back to Sierra
Park but after I did move back
it seems I had no Police Protection
was ever heard that not and the
English vice they return in my house
there was a falling not bonded
under my name vice I copy on
other I send

many Vitterick

Wice in ~~the~~ clipping cut ~~it~~ of ~~an~~ ^{all} ~~the~~
News Paper and Twisted on a other
Paper

Son justified in killing to
preserve the sanctity of the
family

al so thy cald my son a son of a
Bitch and told me I was not
the legal wife of Mr Ernest Vetter
is I'm not an immoral woman as
have ever had any after wst
offer ~~thens~~ I could not understand
way ~~Thy~~ should talk that way
and way my glass bar General
and insult to my person
so my betel has bin against ~~do~~
that try to slander me with
out help of my glass bar or
long to investigate with the ~~dear~~
result of bin arrested for ~~Creis~~
thy But a faged ~~Chick~~ in to
other ~~Hand~~ thinking we would
catch it wen that did not
work ther wer other outrages we
drowe me to ast Birron Jutler
help for an investigation with
the result of bin arrested for

Granny W. Black

at open fire on over front as well as
the slope of justice in in
the slope of justice in in
the slope of justice in in

Trooper ~~to~~ Before - I m, let to find
out he is behind and I spoke
to some acquaintances by the name
of ~~John~~ and told them that I
kill them if they steal my property
there was no direct threat but
if one is justified in entering
a home that Break in your
home one out to be justified
in warning a fire of feeling
to rob in of of ones home
Mr Charles Davis told me I
was not married to Mr Vetterick
al so that if he had not discey
Mr Vetterick he him self would
had sufer way and Carl Davis
be afraid of some amercement
of cors But Gerly wouldn have
the Power to Influence some
action But a plan of some
kind would tolerate of The Califor
Belt claim men I went to see
him at his residence I heard of
a woman crying stating
I told you to stop it she
now has refused but
to this day it is not stop
for the exin of I will and

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
FILES SECTION
JUN 4 3 47 PM 1930

news I have an older
was the first not him from
and well I don't remember the
him I think the conception
is described him and some
of this wife I suspect of
being member of the mysterious
Klan for is a Carpenter wife Build
Engels Haus he lives on
Lawson Avenue he died to
Art. Circle was we lived and
Brot. a Plan for us to approval
of a Record Haus to be build
in River Park and if I remem-
ber it along that we got the first
warning to see Mrs. Lem List
my Boy Blak and blu in S. Co.
at that time she became a good
friend of us but I have an older
that there is some of our contacts
with the Police Department
Gene field was one of the organizers
and Peter Auger belonged to
hard to say the Engel Gases was
connected in the Negro summer
meeting he is one of the member
I don't now of course when they
hounded me But Lesby made
the remark that she's over my

REC'D VED



JUN 25 1936 AM

OFFICIAL

RSC:MOB

May 28, 1936.

Honorable Duncan C. McCrea,
Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County,
Detroit, Michigan.

AS OF COURSE YOU ARE AWARE THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN
CRIMINAL MATTERS IS LIMITED TO VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL STATUTES STOP IF YOU
HAVE ANY INFORMATION INDICATING THAT A FEDERAL OFFENSE HAS BEEN COMMITTED
I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU SUBMIT THE SAME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AT WASHINGTON

ROMER CUMMINGS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

61-7398-75

HENRY SUYDAM
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice
Washington

May 28, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Attorney General has requested me to transmit
the copy of the enclosed telegram.

Henry Suydam,
Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 10 1936

61-7397-75	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 2 1936	A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	FILE

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Blacky
Suydam
C. H. L.

Agelaide Wyck ff Rikes 102 In Brooklyn Tomorrow

103
M. Son, 4, in Fire;
3 Other Children Saved

Guest Drops Three to Safety
in Watertown Blaze

WATERTOWN, N. Y., May 29 (AP)—
Sidney Fox, thirty-five years old, and
his son, Harold, four, burned to death
when their home was destroyed

by a fire. Other children, Doris, seven;
Shirley, three, and Gerald, two, were
saved when they were dropped from
a second-floor window by William O.
Le Fante, thirty-eight, who was an
overnight guest at the home.

Funeral services for Miss Ade-
laide E. Wyckoff, a member of
the faculty of Packer Collegiate
Institute for 45 years, will be held
at the Fairchild Chapel, 85 Lefferts
pl., Brooklyn, tomorrow at
2:30 p. m.

Miss Wyckoff, who died Thurs-
day at St. Francis Hospital, Jer-
sey City, resided at 18 Hanson pl.,
Brooklyn, where she was born 20
years ago. She was graduated
from Packer in 1874 and taught
in Brooklyn public schools before
joining Packer faculty in 1879.
She retired in 1924.

Miss Wyckoff, who had been
prefect of the senior class at
Packer, was an active member of
the Packer Association. Alumnae.
For many years she was a mem-
ber of the Hanson Place Baptist
Church.

She is survived by a brother,
Spencer C. Wyckoff, and a sister,
Miss Ella Wyckoff.

At you might be in a fire

INDEXED

61-7398-16

the Black Legion ever broke into investigation

the newspapers I heard its name ringing on
the street phone or sounding board N. 16 and 936 P. N.
section in South Hartford on Maple Avenue
near Pawtucket Street. I have been told any
one can get on those phones but since the
Black Legion has been in the newspapers some
one has been using names that a few days
have been printed in the accident columns
of the newspapers. Some one shouted "Where
is old man firesignal, I mean New Jersey"
and that was a week before the fires started.
Then the names mentioned in the enclosed
clippings were said too. I do not know how
much else comes over that might be a code as
I see no results in the newspapers.

Since there seems to be no motive of
robbery or revenge connected with these hap-
pennings I thought that it might be some gang
of street terrorists such as the Black Legi-
on. It seems to be devilishly clever and

JUN 9 1936

address sufficient
RZ

often perpetrated among the most conservative class of people who would not welcome any suggestion of foul play.

Often they use slang that I do not at the time understand and several times I have afterwards found out it was crooks jargon. The other day they said to me calling out my name "You have had Crooks Protection but now we will tip you the black spot". The names of people that get hurt come over once in a while quietly sandwiched in among the jargon. Then the other day they said "We will put you onto the black spot legion". Do you suppose they mean they would hook me up with the street phones giving harm signals! It makes me feel physically sick to hear the named called out and afterwards to see them in the newspaper crime accounts and not be able to do anything about it. But the thing sounds so fantastic I don't know whom to go to. The people in Hartford seem to hate the street threats but don't seem to be able to do anything about it.

Last week some deep voice on several different streets of Hartford said 167 Washington Street, I know the policeman who doesn't want her out, then Keenon, or Koenig and in a few days a policeman at that address and by that name died of heart trouble which might have been caused by several things. Now as I write a deep voice says "Miss Kelly is on our crime list."

At first I thought it might be the engineer at some big radio station or else some news agency or some amateur station fooling us but it seems to have serious enough results.

They threaten to get my mother who lives in another state and I have not got enough money to supply private guards or any written evidence that would warrant police protection. They cannot threaten me into silence. If my family are to be hurt anyway I am going to do what I can to prevent a few crimes.

They seem to be a gang who strike without warning and this street is what they call their clearing room.

One day the detonator boomed "Look out your mother with fall in the street next Thursday and if you warn her I will kill her." It seemed crazy and fantastic and I did nothing but she did fall in the street on that very day. It seems to be crime with no idea of gain other than the power over human life.

The men seem to call him Frank and some of the nurses at the Psychiatric Hospital say "Father Geshayten". I don't know what it is all about! It is awful! I haven't much faith in the local police when their own men get caught in a death trap, such as that. Every one else in Hartford can hear it ringing. I hope it comes under the jur-

isdiction of the Federal Bureau.

Some man's voice will give the order to "give it over WJZ", or some other station. Now can they bootlet the big stations' power and for that reason it made me think that the big companies must be fooling until I read the newspapers. Some people up here call "him" Big Frank Mabwig or Paul Mabwig. But the important part is that people are getting hurt and the names used reach into different states.

I could give you pages of things that have happened but it would not be of any aid as there would not be any record of them found. The only thing I guess is to investigate the district and listen in on the signals or whatever they are, certainly orders of some kind.

Sincerely,

The threatened

Ellis Kelly

(I am afraid of them!)

4pages.

May 31, 1936.

3 IN BLACK LEGION ADMIT KIDNAPPING

Abduction and Flogging of a
Fellow Member in October Is
Laid to Gang of Fifteen.

HELD UNDER \$50,000 BAIL

Trio Pleads Guilty but Victim

Refuses to Identify Men—

Ohio Strength Shown.
N.Y. Times 6/5/36

By WILL LISSNER

Special to The New York Times.

DETROIT, June 4.—Fifteen more members of the Black Legion were charged with kidnapping in a warrant sworn out today by Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor. The accusations were in connection with the flogging of another member for failure to attend meetings.

Although the prosecutor yesterday demonstrated the limits to which a member would be bound by his oath of secrecy when he obtained from Dayton Dean, terroristic gunman, an eye-witness story of the Poole murder, in preliminary court proceedings, fear of the secret society stalked again in the secret court.

Robert Penlan of Ecroure, victim of the kidnapping, refused to identify the three men who were arrested today as part of the fifteen. The three, who Mr. McCrea said admitted in statements that they took part in the abduction on orders from their superior officers, turned the tables by identifying the complainant.

The men, Thomas F. Cox, Frederick A. Guiley and Earl Langstedt, were held under a \$50,000 bail each for preliminary court examination Monday.

Three Men Pleaded Guilty

Penlan, in a reluctant complaint, disclosed that he had been taken from his dinner table at the points of revolvers last October, hurried by automobile to a field outside Detroit in Oakland County within earshot of a monastery, and held before a disciplinary court-martial before several hundred robed night riders. He testified the rule violation claim was dismissed and was corroborated by Langstedt and Cox. Guiley confessed, the prosecutor said, that Penlan was tied to a tree and flogged.

The three men pleaded guilty at the arraignment, but the court, learning by questioning that they were unaware of the seriousness of the offense charged, set aside the pleas, ordered that they stand mute until they had consulted an attorney and entered pleas of not guilty.

Twelve others, all ranking officers of the Black Legion, are being sought under "John Doe" identifications in the warrant.

The arrests brought to light new details of the strength of the organization in Ohio. Guiley said his father had been a member in the neighboring State and he was inducted there when he became 21. He insisted that the Black Knights acted as aids to law enforcement agencies there and said they were better organized and disciplined than in Michigan.

Held in \$5,000 Bail

In Jackson, Mich., a man alleged to be second in command of the strong "regiment" there was held in \$5,000 bail on a felonious assault charge. The prisoner, Glenn Finkel, a salesman, was accused of leading the effort to coerce the Rev. Ralph Montague, Baptist clergyman, into joining the Black Legion. Judge Ernest J. Rogers, in a grand jury proceeding before him, is attempting to learn the name of Finkel's superior, believed to be the up-State commander.

Four men, two of whom are public employees, were bound over by Judge Rogers for trial on assault charges in connection with the flogging of a member for failing to attend meetings. One Hawley, former lieutenant of guards at the State prison, a State witness, said that Ray Ernest, dismissed guard, ordered that Hawley Smith of Norwell, Mich., be sent Mr. Smith was

tried in his house before Ernest, "brigadier general" who ordered the five lashes that were given the man, Hawley, a "major," testified.

The prisoners, who included Glenn and Clarence Ernest, brothers of Fay, and Allan Bascom, County Road Commission worker, were represented by Clyde LaFulton, former police justice of Highland Park, who is also attorney for Arthur Lupp, Detroit "general." Ray Ernest also was arraigned on a charge of carrying concealed weapons in connection with the arsenal found in his home and was held for examination.

Further Inquiries Are Planned

The grand jury inquiry has established that in Detroit County membership is concentrated in three towns, but in them there is hardly a household that is not represented on the terrorist organization's roster.

Wayne County's State grand jury inquiry in Detroit opened with testimony by Inspector John B. Hoffman of the Detroit police. Inspector Hoffman has been investigating charges that several score of members of the Detroit force are members of the Black Legion and has been checking 500 names of substantial citizens found in files at raided headquarters of the organization.

The Circuit Bench in Oakland County, sitting at Pontiac, where a citizens' committee has charged that the secret society dominates the local government, is implicated in several important cases of suspicious deaths and suicides. It closed today to conduct a grand jury inquiry into the death of a woman.

Ray Markland, investigator for Mr. McCrea who had taken an important part in uncovering the kidnapping cases, was named as having attended a meeting of the Black Legion in 1934. The statement was made before the Highland Park Police and after a hearing at a session called to determine how many city employees there had affiliated themselves with the booded order.

Markland Denies Charges

Besides the investigator, a County Court Clerk, a City Commissioner and a Police and Fire Commissioner attended the meeting. The witness, a city truck driver, who has admitted membership, testified. Three other city employees, one a Fire Department captain, admitted membership and were called before the hearing. Mr. Markland denied attending and said he was in the hospital on the date given.

The County Court Clerk named was Clyde Markland, aide to Judge James E. Chenoit, before whom the Wayne County grand jury inquiry is being conducted by State Attorney General David H. Crowley. Clyde Markland, a brother of Ray, also denied the charges, but announced his resignation immediately, declaring he did not wish to embarrass Judge Chenoit.

Mr. McCrea made public an exchange of telegrams between Representative John D. Dingell and himself. Mr. Dingell, asking that he submit to the Federal authorities evidence of violation of Federal laws, told him he believed indications of a kidnapping law violation would be "the way which will permit us to come to conclusions." Mr. McCrea replied that it seemed to him the Federal Treason Law had been violated.

NOT RECORDED

INDEXED

61-1297-76

JEB:OEP

June 3, 1936.

Time - 12:10 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Re: Black Legion.

Mr. Surdan telephoned and stated he had been advised by the Detroit News that Mrs. Dayton Dean, who has been writing a number of signed articles for the Hearst papers about the Black Legion, has left Detroit with a reporter for the Detroit Times and it is thought she is on her way to Washington; that if she gets to interview anyone in the Department it is thought the Hearst papers would publish stories to the effect that the Department is in on the case. I stated that if she appeared at my office I would have her sent directly to Mr. Surdan's office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Gandy

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-77
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 5 1936 P.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

JUN - 4 1936

P. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EEB:BB
61-77478
Mrs. Margaret A. Sims
Expert, Idaho

Dear Sir:

Madam: I wish to acknowledge your letter dated June 2, 1936. The contents of your communication have been carefully noted. I desire to inform you that this Bureau is authorized to conduct investigations only in those cases where there is some indication of a violation of specified Federal Laws. The facts outlined in your communication do not indicate a violation of any Federal Law within this Bureau's investigative jurisdiction, and therefore no action can be taken upon the subject matter of your letter.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-Butte

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 13 1936
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

E. J. [Signature]

Respectfully,
Yours truly,
Rafael A. Lopez

June 2, 1926

J. Edgar Hoover

Washington D.C.

Dear Sir: I feel satisfied - in fact
I know - there is a strong organization
of Black Legion in this part of Idaho.
I've been a victim of them for better
than 20 years. My husband heard of some
in 1918, and that I believe - is when the
hoarding started. It is I wish to say
the foundation stone of our "Best
People." around in the 1890's one
Frank J. Ga Rue at ^{Burley} ^{a Bank} ^{near} I saw
^{RECORDED & INDEXED}
shot himself. - There was a man named
he was supposed to have died
said that he went to Europe, took a lot
of the bank's money his name was
Renee J. Ga Rue, Rupert, got a lot of his
own car insurance and had he, brother H.
Baynes (President of the First Security
Bank & Trust) came here around 1916
the loaning people they were

now here is what I want you to do.
Send a man here, a Federal man that
no one here knows, pretending he is ~~stop~~
for a location as a lawyer. ~~any~~ but
have him also say he has a brother
the east and "if I locate her I am don-
e farm and will put him on it," and
that he has his eye on the Sims and will
the residence on it at \$10,000.00. Well
if he can convince these ~~best~~ people
that he is serious there is no telling
what he ~~he~~ might discover. Then
he should find plenty here to justify
the L-men the burning. I am sure
could be investigated. I feel satisfied
this Frank G. Lee did nothing else
but hoodwink the rest of his life (he is
dead now) and does not ~~unintentionally~~
stay so long - in 1908 he spent 6 m
in Europe. I haven't very much doubt
that this Frank G. Lee helped start the
Black Hooded stags in the United States
the same

WFO:CSB
61-7398-77

June 16, 1936

RECORDED

61-7398

Special Agent in Charge,
Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated June 3, 1936, transmitting copies of a letter addressed to you under date of June 2, 1936, by Mr. [redacted] of Spencer, North Carolina, together with copies of a letter addressed to Mr. E. M. Robinson, of Spencer, North Carolina by one E. M. Hicks of Asheville, North Carolina, dated May 11, 1936. It is noted that Mr. [redacted] indicates the letter addressed to Mr. Robinson may refer to the activities of the Black Legion.

You are advised that this Bureau is taking no action with regard to the activities of the Black Legion, and you are under no circumstances to conduct any investigation relative thereto without specific instructions from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

JUN 17 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Starnes
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Starnes
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Pennington
Miss Gandy

[Handwritten signature]
JST

9.
V
3
Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1887,
Charlotte, North Carolina.

June 5, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: BLACK LEGION ACTIVITIES.

9
Transmitted herewith are two copies of a letter addressed to this office under date of June 2, 1936, by Mr. [redacted] Spencer, North Carolina, and two copies of a letter addressed to one, H. H. Robinson, Spencer, North Carolina, by one, W. M. Hicks, dated at Asheville, North Carolina, May 11, 1936, which letter was forwarded to this office by Mr. [redacted]. Two copies of my reply to Mr. [redacted] dated today, are also attached hereto.

It is noted that Mr. [redacted] believes the letter addressed to Robinson by Hicks refers to Black Legion activities. Consequently, I am bringing this to the Bureau's attention for general information and such reference as may be deemed appropriate.

The original communication addressed to Robinson is being retained in the files of this office, it being likely that Mr. [redacted] may request its return to him.

Very truly yours,

Aug 11/36
W. H. London
C. W. LONDON,
Special Agent in Charge.

GNL:ADC
Encls. 2
62-594

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
JUN 19 1936
9
E. H. L.

61-7348-79
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 5 1936 A.
TAMM
TWA
H

9

COPY:ADO

Spencer

June 4, 1936

Mr. C. N. Lowdon,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed, you will find a letter that accidentally came into my possession. I obtained this letter from the person to whom it is addressed, H. H. Robinson. Mr. Robinson informs me that this letter is from a "Black Legion" leader who has been seeking his aid in organizing through this section. I can learn no more from him concerning this letter, other than his statement to the effect that this letter referred to the "Black Legion". He asked that I destroy the letter after reading it; so, he is unaware that it is in your possession. Please do not think me a "crank" for sending you this letter. It may be only a false alarm, yet this fellow Hicks may warrant investigation. I got hold of this letter on May 28, and would have sent it sooner, but I wasn't quite sure just what to do. I hope this letter will be of some importance. At your service, I remain

Respectfully yours,

(e) [REDACTED]
Spencer, N.C.

61-7398-79

Asheville, N.C.

145 Blanton St.

May 11, 1936

Mr. H. H. Robinson
International Organizer
Spencer, N. C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing you this notice in order that I may hear from you at once.

If you are coming to St. Louis, Mo. let us join together Saturday night, May 16, leaving out of Asheville on train No. 27. I would like for you to come to my home the same day on No. 11 in order that we may go over something about our working conditions in the state of N. C. as we understand just what confronts us through this territory, if you can come on No. 11 just come right on to my home. I will be working but will be home about four o'clock.

I shall look to hear from you earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

Signed: W. M. Hicks

W. M. Hicks

61-7398-29

95
Post Office Box 1887,
Charlotte, North Carolina.

June 6, 1936.

Mr. [REDACTED]
North Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 2, 1936, with which you forwarded a letter addressed to Mr. H. H. Robinson, by one, W. M. Hicks, dated at Asheville, North Carolina, May 11, 1936.

It is noted that you have secured information indicating that the letter to Mr. Robinson refers to "Black Legion" activities. Inasmuch as this matter does not appear to constitute any violation of a Federal Statute over which this Bureau presently has jurisdiction, no action in regard thereto can be taken by this office.

I appreciate, however, your courteous cooperation in submitting this information for my attention, and wish to thank you for your action.

Very truly yours,

O. H. LUDON,
Special Agent in Charge.

ONL:ADC

62-494

61-7398-79

420 Post Office Bldg.,
Dallas, Texas.

June 6, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

I am transmitting herewith a news clipping
from the Dallas Times-Herald of 6/2/36, captioned
"Hoover Hoped in for Centennial," and an editorial from
the same publication of the same date captioned, "They
Sent in a Call for the O-Man;" also an editorial from the
Dallas Morning News of 6/4/36 "The Parole System."

Very truly yours,

F.J. Blake,
Special Agent in Charge.

FJB:LTH

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7378-80

JUN 26 1936

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1936	
FBI - DALLAS	

THEY SENT IN A CALL FOR THE

Call for G-men
June 2, 1936

THE MICHIGAN STATE AUTHORITIES

lost no time in calling for federal assistance when they uncovered the so-called Black Legion. But the department of justice still recognizes the fact that national law enforcement agencies have jurisdiction only when federal laws have been violated.

To the appeal of Michigan for aid, Attorney General Cummings simply stated that the G-men could not step in unless there were clear indications that federal law had been flouted. Upon the state enforcement machinery the major portion of the task of extirpating crime still rests.

The Black Legion is a sort of nefarious political organization. For that reason local elective officials naturally wonder how many votes they will gain or lose by suppressing the terrorists. It would be convenient for them to accept federal aid and be in position to shift responsibility to G-men.

EAT:TMF

June 4, 1936

Honorable John L. Masinaki,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of May 27, 1936, transmitting a letter addressed to you under date of May 25, 1936 by Dr. Nathan J. Bicknell of 10508 West Chicago Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, in which investigation is requested into the operations of the Black Legion. I must advise you that in the absence of some showing of a violation of a Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I cannot authorize or initiate any investigation into the operations of the Black Legion.

The original letter addressed to you by Dr. Bicknell is herewith returned.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #831445

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

JUN - 5 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

JOHN LESINSKI
18th Dist. Michigan

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

May 27, 1936

Mr. Edgar Hoover,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed please find letter
which I have this date received relative to the
Black Legion at Detroit.

If possible I would appreciate your
investigating this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Lesinski
JOHN LESINSKI, M.C.

COMMITTEES:
LABOR
INVALID PENSIONS
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Chief Clerk ✓
Mr. Coffey ✓
Mr. Edwards ✓
Mr. Egan ✓
Mr. Foxworth ✓
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Joseph ✓
Mr. Keith ✓
Mr. Lester ✓
Mr. Quinn ✓
Mr. Schilder ✓
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 11 1936

61-7398-81
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 6 1936 P.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOYSON
RAMM

TWO

FILE

R

NATHAN J. BICKNELL, M. D.

10508 West Chicago Avenue
Detroit.

May 25, 1936.

C
O
P
Y

Dear Congressman Lesinski:-

Startling unbelievable revelations of Black Legion with their political and industrial ramifications require thorough Federal investigation.

Many state and municipal employees are definitely implicated, and local investigation will be curtailed before higher ups are exposed.

I would like to know what connection former Gov. Wilbur /Burkes (?) has with this organization, also if Harry Bennett, Chief Ford Stool Pigeon is not behind the scenes.

It is high time that federal authorities expose without fear or favour this entire setup. One Leader says "Why a dictator from Russia or Rome, why not have one of our own?" Liberty Leagues or Wall Street Dictator? I wonder?

Decent Michigan people would welcome action.

In the name of Humanity Please act at once.

Yours truly,

/s/ N. J. Bicknell.

61-7392-81

ANON MOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

June 6, 1936

61-7328-82

Am sending you a copy of the

of Alast. Legion JUN 8, 1936

names JUN 10 1936

of Schuck Kacasa, Sengibit Smol

Charles Lutz

the bunch that hangs at

Acara 10

Eckbackman 13th Street

Jesse Harte

Richard X. Sarlain and others

923 9th St + 915 4th St

Bill C. Smith and others

John X. Smith and others

a fellow the Bill Smith at

Beaumont

Frank Sarlain son of Jesse Harte

Bill Douglas South 1st St about

1870 1871

The 1870 1871
at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

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John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

John Sarnie at Cornhill Ill

84
611
1.6 around,

a line that
knows they do

V.S. 1 Painter and Voice
at Sullivan and

a Garner at 410 12 St. runs
Great Spots.



85



John P. Hobbs

Executive Secretary

Washington D.C.

ESTABLISHED 1908

Herbert S. Mikesell

SCIENTIFIC SECRET SERVICE
LABORATORIESRichmond, Indiana
U. S. A.AMERICAN FOREIGN
CRIMINOLOGY PRACTICERADIO CABLEGRAMS, H.S.M.S.
ALL INTERNATIONAL CODES

June 5th 1936

*no money
sent
for*

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Dept. of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Hoover:

Some time during the winter of 1932 after the assassination of Mayor O'Connor of Chicago, Ill., while riding with the then President of the United States during a parade in Miami, Fla. I mailed you at Washington a letter relating to a person who wished me to enter into a secret organization and open a bacterial laboratory in the region of Miami for pathological culture of bacteria.

After I have reported occurrences of this nature to the proper authorities, I destroy the copies of such correspondence in order to prevent such from falling into the hands of those persons who would use the information to an illegal advantage.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Should you still have this letter in your possession, please forward same to his Honor Mayor Frank D. Cargill of Detroit, Mich., as I am

JUN 17 1936

61-7318-3	SEARCHED	INDEXED	SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1936				
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE				

now confident this fellow was connected
with the Black Legion under investigation.

It is the name and personal description
of the fellow that the Detroit officials
would be interested in.

Thanking you for your cooperation in
this matter, I remain,

Respectfully yours,
Robert S. Wickard
#6 - Howard Place
Richmond, Ind.

Best luck for your continued success.

WASH:MCL

June 12, 1936.

61-7398-81

RECORDED

Mr. Glenn Lyberger,
413 Main Street,
Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Lyberger:

Your letter was received in this Bureau on June 9, 1936, in which you advise of the desire of some of the young men from Meyersdale to organize a club for the enforcement of laws.

Please be advised that there is no provision whereby this Bureau can sponsor such an organization. The work of this Bureau is performed by duly authorized Special Agents whose qualifications are detailed in the enclosed copy of the publication entitled "The Selection and Training of Personnel." Only the Special Agents are entitled to identification cards.

As of possible interest, I am enclosing the following additional publications:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Addresses delivered by the Director
of the Federal Bureau of Investi-
gation before the annual convention
of the Daughters of the American
Revolution on April 23, 1936, and
before the annual convention of the
Boys' Clubs of America on May 24,
1936.

Sincerely yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUN 16 1936
JUN 16 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Enclosure 61-7398-81

413. May 12
My dear Mr. Hoover

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice

Dear Mr. Hoover

Some of the boys from
Hesperia would like to talk to you
and join in hunting for the Black
 Legion in Santa Valles & nearby
 Alameda etc I would like to be
 sworn in under a junior club and have
 the authority to arrest the such a is to
 have a cargo from you & your money
 special permission 61-7398-84

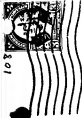
RECEIVED
JUN 15 1936

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 15 1936

61-7398-84	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 9 1936 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JOSEPH [initials]	FILE

Hoping to hear from you

Thanking you
6-12-36
RCH



103



Mr. Edgar Hoover

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington
D.C.

61-2798-55

June 19, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. [REDACTED]

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 8, 1936, in which you indicate your belief that certain fires of incendiary origin may have been caused by the Black Legion, which you allege is active in your section of the country, and request that this Bureau take appropriate action.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion or similar organizations are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct investigation in the premises.

Concerning the statement contained in your letter to the effect that a certain person, who is not a citizen of the United States and without intention to become one, has attempted to take your life, it is suggested that you may care to furnish full information relative to this party to Colonel Daniel W. McCormack, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., for such attention as he may deem appropriate.

Your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 19 1936
F. B. I.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

[Handwritten signature]

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 22 1936

61-7328-85

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 10 1936 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

active in this part
country there have been
of activities in a line and
this fellow had to be
and he is not a citizen of the
and that want to

George Henry [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]

gfr

18

gas hoses, 1
re table and 1/2
in a night he
me and Waterville
and approve of any one
ing radicalized up and
heavy power on them so
he will get it so to kick
re even. This is what they
doing in Waterville and
Callegas and people and
have been clanging to and
have them in place
- Street City Hall house and
if one is down street and
the power in them and
e looks but contribute to
RECORDED & INDEXED
My policy team of 33 might
- 1000000 things they want to
e if they can't kick and the
if people are allowed to do
the older ones don't work
do more than the young
then they will have 15000
May Mar 196-19 and put

visiting to get money to
 come from 'M. at
 come from the poorer station
 don't it they have 12 with
 square black leather dress
 to do with so many and
 done to make them pay the
 bonus and to get no pension
 for the aged and they wanted
 to force them, there are a
 lot for your federal men
 Perhaps these men block
 Legion men killed the
 Lumburg baby had and then
 Pomer has got into the church
 of God W. W. got rid of the
 older members, so place
 got rid of such awful here
 in Waterville, you and the
 young people are doing just
 the same as the M. at
 and fathers of the M. at
 This way, all churches and
 Salvation Army will be lost

in the morning. I can't see
me in a large bed.
the kitchen to the water
and not the window
is in the window
side of the state road but
didn't put in so much
over and then there is a
and like water signifying
a place here in Hallenut
city Hall. The Mayor
sons' and people that
any one who has nothing
try to do them' unless
are pretty good. Christian
me don't know they are
at running because some
I told them to end some
know and says to be
you better look in to them
- get rid of them - is. Make
- run them right. The
did as the devil's tools. to
if they can marriage

and state I can here
through going round at all
to get the bones in so to kill
electorate this way. and they
have a good many who have
died suddenly. you'll know
better than that stuff in
don't show this to any one here
as I don't want any one to
know, and those are don't
want any thing said. No
under the world is in the
condition it is in and the
blood came and apple trees
broke, and the lightning struck
some fair Lord Men.
God's judgment in the land
and this has been going on
years 1/2 and some far two
end by all the churches, Masters
some of them and don't expect
things to end. Don't expect
one. Bill the George W. and he
had some thing in his
... case to do and he called

and different series will
demonstrated here (to)
different ways and to the
don't show this to any
one here but look in
to this and get rid of
them as is stop them
from doing the Gov
don't seem to. don't dare
to I guess don't know
they know they are
doing and perhaps they
are to don't know.
Portland Men was right
when he said the
tail end of black legion
was in Maine.
Had then set up all round
here and church people
to no wonder they do
under such Power 'phone
and want you to stop this
I know I know they do

this is the way the world is taking now - third
each power

any to put on the machine which power is at
the power what they say and the way
to do no wonder they do

7-10: Col get more go
chance. They say they
in collage. They put the
pones in to make them
them solve say over the
while they getting the ponies in
them and to go to doctor so
he can in in easy way
and old to get them in the
Crazy house and the young
to do wrong under this
power and to do wrong and
this is why so many come
before the court the young and
why the institutions are full
get them there should be
any such wars I say and
long airals and cut down
as war' and they are having
the devil's tools they are to kill
if they can get enough ponies
in then the rods and the one
swimming it back to the one
that they are try ing to kill.
They shouldnt be allowed to
have them in beer parlors
and such places Karayon and

no more and fast after
and say what they have
look they have
and
and
must reproduce
one else

a Owing to a good many things
 being done in those
 roads and their power in the
 first place. ^{that you have}
 as you say you will see
 one across from Jeffers



John Edgar Ho
 Washington D.C.

It is in true measure that
above and are doing to the
Now it they don't put on so
much power and play pleasant and
Looooooooooy I may

Person
and that
[146]

come to the next up
station 2 M. after about
over Lefferts border shop
and this state of the upper
College are crossing railroad
one across from

1702/22

Henry - one
rodgers and the
first place
all right - see

Where does the power come
from to head quarters as
from E. Central Main power
as electricity over the wires
as how stop it do
come quick.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Record of Telephone Call of Visitor.

May 30 1936.

Time 11:10 AM

Name Blair Moody of the Detroit News

tele

Referred to

Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
Mr. Nease

Details:

Stated he would like to talk to the Director
about the Black Legion and about the Pension Bill.

Asked to be called at National 4566.

oep

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

JUN 18 1936

61-7398-87

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 2 1936

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLE

Handwritten signature

FILE

RECORDED COPY FILED

61-7398-144

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Mr. J. Dept. of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7396-88
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 10 1936

Gentlemen,

The writer is of the
opinion you may find
traces of the Black Legion
in Menlo Park, California,
and Atherton.
However, this is only
a hunch.

One Mrs. Wm. Beatty
Wright (who lived in Detroit
years ago and who is rather
"hard-boiled" towards certain
elements) may be one of them.
This is only a hunch.
*American

RECORDED
JUN 4 1936

101-2398-89

Honorable Tom Connally,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I have received your communication of June 1, 1936, transmitting a telegram addressed to you under date of June 1, 1936, by [redacted] from Houston, Texas, in which [redacted] advises that he is in possession of information concerning the activities of the Black Legion.

I desire to inform you that this Bureau is conducting no investigation into the operations of the Black Legion because no information has been developed to date indicating that this organization is operating in violation of any Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction. I am consequently returning herewith the telegram addressed to you by [redacted].

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Enclosure #66145

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 6 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Enson

United States Senate

June 1, 1936

W
X

Respectfully referred to
Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Division of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Mc	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

with thanks for such favorable consideration as
the communication herewith submitted warrants,
and for a report thereon, to accompany return
of inclosure.

By direction of

J. Edgar Hoover U. S. S.

RECORDED & INDEXED

161-7378-89
m5
H Ans 6-4-36
Eck
JUN 15 1936

61-7378-89	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 9 1936 A. M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	FILE

WESTERN UNION

1936 JUN 1 AM 1 31

1112 30 NL 3 EXTRA- HOUSTON TEX 31

HON TOM CONNALLY

US SENATOR OF TEXAS WASH DC

IF THE US GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN ACTIVITIES OF BLACK
LEGION WHICH IS PROBABLY OF A WIDER SPREAD NATURE THAN IS
ORDINARILY THOUGHT OF VALUABLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

██████████ TEXAS STATE HOTEL HOUSTON

X

61-7398-89

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee On
Immigration and Naturalization
Washington, D. C.

Samuel Dickstein,
N.Y., Chairman

May 25th, 1936.

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,
Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Since the Committee on Un-American Activities has concluded its investigation dealing with subversive movements in the United States, there has popped up additional foreign and domestic elements which are continuously, in one form or another, advocating propaganda subversive in its tendencies through the distribution of literature against the Federal employees, which in my opinion, is not free speech or free press, but seeks to undermine our present form of Government. It may be Communism, it may be Fascism, or it may be any other ism one might care to call it.

I am enclosing herewith, a number of documents which I have received from an American citizen which shows the danger as imminent. It is most urgent, therefore, that these matters be looked into and investigated, to find out who is financing this propaganda, and from where it is emanating. If you think it necessary, I will be glad to call upon Congress for further power and assistance in competing with this menace.

I also call your attention to another piece of subversive propaganda which is distributed by one who calls himself Robert Edward Edmondson. This sheet is nothing but propaganda, financed by a group in Wall Street, to betray the American people against the President of the United States, and other outstanding men and women, who happen to be members of his Cabinet, or otherwise prominent in public life.

In our investigation we came across anonymous complaints dealing with a so-called "Black Shirts" organization. We did not have the time to go into this matter at that time, and no doubt did not take it as seriously as we might have. I do not know if the present organization known as the "Black Legion" is in any way connected with this

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-40
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 26 1936

JUN 12 1936

62-38211-2

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover

- 2 -

May 25, 1936.

above mentioned group, but it seems to me that this "Black Legion" is a group of subversivists who are seeking to destroy American citizens because of racial and religious affiliations, pointed mainly toward my people and people of the Catholic faith. It seems to me that this organization should receive the most careful scrutiny and investigation of your Department.

The mails are being used to foment racial and religious prejudices almost continually, and concerning this aspect I am writing the Post Office Department.

I realize full well I am adding additional burdens to your office, but when we have un-American organizations, under the guise of patriots, stoop so low as to attack through the mails, as shown by the enclosures, and through other nefarious methods, we are indeed living in a Dark Age.

Respectfully yours,

/s/

SAMUEL DICKSTEIN, M.C.

enclosures

61-1398-90

June 1, 1938

Honorable Sam Houston Dickstein
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of May 5, 1938, transmitting various documents which you have said were from underground workers and which you believe justify investigation, for the purpose of determining the source of this propaganda. Because of the existing limitations upon the statutory authority of the Federal Government to investigate radical activities, I cannot initiate any investigation upon the facts furnished by you. I have, however, furnished to Mr. Joseph B. Keenan, the Assistant to the Attorney General in charge of all of the material submitted by you for appropriate consideration by the Department, and have requested the Department to advise me in the event any action is authorized upon the

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

62-6279-2
FILED

COPY

AT:TMF

June 1, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOSEPH P. ARNDT
SUBJECT: [illegible]

RECORDED

61-17398-70

I am attaching hereto for your information a copy of a letter addressed to me under date of May 25, 1936 by Congressman Samuel Dickstein, together with photostatic copies of the various enclosures referred to in the letter. I have also acknowledged receipt of this letter and have informed Congressman Dickstein that the Bureau will not initiate investigation into these matters because of the absence of Federal Statutes penalizing radical activities. In the event you believe any other action should be taken upon this matter, I would appreciate being so advised by you.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH P. ARNDT
Director

Enclosure #51229

CHAINED FILED IN 62-38219

June 11, 1936

RECORDED

EX-107

Greenfield, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, 1936 furnishing full information relative to the activities of the Night Riders of Ohio, of which organization you indicate you are a member but have been unable to resign by reason of the threats received from that organization. It is noted that you request that this Bureau take appropriate action against this organization.

Please be advised that the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal Laws. The facts contained in your communication have been carefully noted but in the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of any such Federal Law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

However, your courtesy in furnishing me information relative to this organization is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Cincinnati



Mr. Tamm calls Dir.'s attention to the attached letter from a member of the Night Riders who tells of the actions of this secret organization (which is apparently akin to the Black Legion). He was forced to join under threat and desires to get out. The only way they can get out of the organization is by death, and he gives instructions for answering this letter.

mk

38765

38766

Greenfield, Ohio
May 25, 1936

To the Special Agent in charge
of investigating the Black
Legion in Michigan, Ohio, and
Indiana.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-9
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 28 1936

JUN 18 1936

Dear Sir:

I have been reading for the last few days of the acts of the Black Legion in Michigan and had intended to write a letter to Attorney-general John Bricker of Ohio. When I heard that the F. B. I. was taking a hand I decided to write there instead, chiefly for my own protection as they are known for keeping the names of informants secret.

I am a member of the Night Riders of Ohio and want to get out; have wanted to since the night I joined under threat.

During the summer of 1934 I was approached several times by two acquaintances who asked me if I wanted to join a "secret, patriotic organization, opposed to Communism, Fascism, and other foreign experiments and standing for white supremacy, the constitution and opposition to permitting negroes, Jews, Japanese, Chinese and any but native born American citizens who had proved their loyalty from holding or controlling office."

I sounded them out for more than a year as I thought the idea sounded dangerous. However the two men seemed to be perfectly decent citizens if not overly brainy. From general conversations that I held with them at various times I was told that this organization did not believe in terrorism, that it was chiefly an effort to spread American propaganda, that it did not believe in any sort of oppression, and that they planned no action till the day when some group tried to seize the government by force--then they would rally much after the fashion of Minute Men, and be ready for business.

On their promise that no one was forced to join against his will I accompanied them to a meeting. Another person whom I knew slightly was there also and in a few minutes when we were alone voiced the same opinion I had. Something was needed to combat seditious activity but this didn't look like the right thing. We agreed that if we did not like the looks of things that we would not join.

This was while I was living in Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio. In September of 1935, one of the men picked me up at my home after cautioning me to tell no one where I was going. We drove east on the Lincoln Highway, U.S. Route 30 till a mile or so east of the side road to Orrville. We turned north there for some distance on a back road and turned sharply to the right at a railroad crossing, more than a right angle, and swung away from the tracks without crossing them. After driving some distance down this road we passed a large barn which the driver said was the largest all-metal barn in that territory, perhaps in the whole country. A short distance farther along we turned in at a farm lane marked by a lighted lantern hanging on some sort of wooden platform. We turned to the right and after

passing either two farm houses or one farm house and a very artistic barn, stopped in a field. Two men in civilian clothes stopped us and spoke to the driver for a moment, asking him if we were candidates and if he could vouch for us. We then parked, left us in the car and went on ahead. Several more cars arrived and fifteen or twenty candidates were seated in them. 38767

After waiting nearly an hour, during which time the acquaintance and I discussed the thing in low tones, six men dressed in black gowns and hoods and carrying revolvers came down to the cars, lined us up and marched us through the field, up a hill till we were well out of sight from the road.

We were asked numerous questions about our political, social, and religious beliefs. I list as many as I remember:

Are you an American citizen?

Native born?

What is your religion?

What are your politics?

Do you believe in supporting the Constitution?

Do you believe in Lynch Law? My acquaintance was the only one who decidedly opposed it. They then asked him, "If you came home and found a nigger raping your wife what would you do?" He replied, "There wouldn't be any time for lynching." They laughed and said he would do.

Do you promise to vote as your commander tells you if the candidate is the better man?

We were then told that we had gone so far we could not back out and that we would have to join. Two who "Refused" and threatened to tell were punished. One was hanged and one shot. I assume these were staged to impress us and that they were already members. At least no disappearances were reported in that part of Ohio at the time and I watched the papers closely. However in the dark, and with armed men all around we none thought of it or wanted to take the chance.

We were then told to kneel and one of the members pressed a gun to the back of each initiate while we took an oath. I reproduce it as nearly as I can remember.

"I, candidate name, swear by all the powers of heaven and hell, that I will never betray any of the secrets or fellow members of this organization; that I will be relentless in my fight against Communists, Jews, Catholics, black-legs and any of their kind. That I will obey all orders of a superior officer of this organization even if they mean my own death. That I will let no bonds of friendship or affection cause me to fail in my duty; that I take these members to be my brothers and will never forsake them."

There was much more to it but that is as nearly as I can remember.

We were told that there was no way of resigning from the organization except by death. The leader boasted that one member who had tried to get out had been killed and his car burned near New Philadelphia, Ohio, and no one was the wiser. Each one of us was then handed a .303 Savage rifle cartridge, base first, and told that any others would come at us ball end first. We were then permitted to leave.

Since then I have attended only one meeting which was held in what I assumed to be the Ku Klux Klan meeting place, a room on the third floor of a building on the north-east corner of the public square, Wooster, Ohio.

I managed to avoid attending any other meetings as I was busy at college part of the time, until December, 1935, when I graduated from the School of Journalism, Ohio State University. At other times I told them I was going out of town for the evening or had a date. We were notified only at the last minute and no one but the driver of the car knew where to go.

I have done some cautious questioning since then and was told that the Ohio commander is a veterinary doctor who lives near the Ohio River. That there are between 300 and 400 members in Wayne county alone. 3876

At the time of the initiation which was shortly after the death of Huey Long, the whole organization paid a minute of "silent tribute to that great southern leader, Huey Long."

I was told that the Night Riders and the K.K.K. cooperate and have much the same ideals but that there is no connection. To satisfy my desire for proof I attended an open meeting of the K.K.K. and recognized several as men I had seen after the initiation when they unmasked.

The recognition signal between two members who are not sure of each other but want to become acquainted follows:

A reaches up and raises the front of his hat or cap.

B pulls his down.

A pulls his down.

B pushes his up.

A raises his again.

B pulls his down.

They shake hands, A saying, "Under the star of the guard."

B replies, "So shall it be."

A, "Unto the end."

The password is given only when a member of sentinel in full regalia and under arms asks for it. A member is not to give it to any one else. When the guard asks for the password the member says, "Place Americans only, on guard."

The names of several whom I know to be members in the Wayne county group are:

Henry Shelly, owner of Shelly's Dairy on the Three C Highway about a mile north of Wooster. He is, or was, the colonel of the Wooster company.

John Hites who lives on a cross road just north and west of Shelly. He is employed at the Minglewood Coal and Ice plant, Wooster.

Thomas Glasgow, second hand dealer and truck driver, whose business place is on South Walnut Street, Wooster, Ohio.

Fred Read, or Reed, or Ried, I am not sure which, who joined with me against his wishes.

Clifford C. Odell, gunsmith and railroad worker. Business place, North Buckeye St., Wooster, Ohio. Residence, Blair Boulevard. I doubt if he is active as he was not at either meeting. I attended and has spoken very strongly against the methods of the K.K.K.

Carey Grosenbaugh.

A man named Farnier.

One of the members of the Orville police force. I don't know his name but he was initiated the same night I was.

It is claimed that Sheriff Bert Nauman of Wayne county is a member. I did not see him at either meeting.

They were trying to get Ed. Mills, deputy sheriff, and now

...ican candidate for sheriff, to join. I have not heard whether he did or not. They also boasted that "Some of the police and National Guard are members." They claimed affiliation with an organization in Pennsylvania known as the "Wild Cats."

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I am sending this letter to a friend in Columbus who is to drop it in a mail box without any question. I am employed here as a reporter on the Greenfield Daily Republican and do not want to arouse any questions among possible members here. I will be willing to help the F.B.I. as far as possible in future but must ask that this information, my name, and the town from which the letter was mailed be held in strictest confidence.

Had I realized what the organization really was I would never have considered joining. My newspaper training, my desire for adventure, and my ignorance of its true character lead me to a position where I could not safely withdraw. I hope this will assist in brasking up what has proved to be as dangerous a movement as the ones it claims to combat. If any reply is made please send it to my residence in plain envelope.

Very respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]